



## PART 2: Connecting the Dots

### INTRODUCTION

We all hate to lose. But winning something significant *a/ways* involves losing something less significant. What will you choose to lose? You owe it to yourself to understand what you're going to lose based on your choices, because if you choose to lose, it opens the door to remarkable things in following Jesus.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Looking back at your life, are you a risk-taker or do you tend to seek security? How do you think that has shaped the direction of your life?
2. Why do you think it's so difficult for people to weigh short-term losses against long-term gains? What are some practical strategies we can use to make that kind of decision-making easier?
3. Read Matthew 14:25–31. If you were in the same situation, do you think you'd be out on the water with Peter or in the boat with the other eleven disciples? Explain.
4. During the message, Joel said, *"Choosing to take comfort in Jesus involves losing comfort in everything else."* Does that statement bother you? Why or why not?
5. What is the thing you most fear losing? Is it possible that's the thing Jesus is calling you to step away from? Why or why not?
6. What is the one area of life that you know taking a step of faith in would be terrifying and only Jesus could save you? What can you do to take a step of faith in that area? How can this group support you?

### MOVING FORWARD

Following Jesus sounds great in theory, but obedience is scary. We only discover how we're going to do what Jesus calls us to do *after* stepping out in obedience. That seems backwards. But when we focus on Jesus—the one calling us to obey—it gets easier because we learn to take comfort in him.

### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."*

**Matthew 14:27**